(3) Fourth Report on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1997-98.

11.06½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Sixth Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Railways (1996-97) on Ministry of Railways—Demands for Grants 1997-98 and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

11.06¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Reports and Minutes

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports on Demands for Grants 1997-98 and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development :

(1) Eighth Report in respect of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Rural Development).

(2) Ninth Report in respect of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Wastelands Development).

(3) Tenth Report in respect of the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Employment (Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation).

(4) Eleventh Report in respect of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Department of Urban Development).

(5) Twelfth Report in respect of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation).

11.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Fifty-sixth Fifty-seventh, Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth, Sixtienth, Sixty-first and Sixty-second Reports

[English]

SHRI SARTAJ SINGH (Hoshangabad) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development :

(1) Fifty-Sixth Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 of the Department of Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development);

(2) Fifty-Seventh Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 of the Department of Family Welfare (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(3) Fifty-Eighth Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 of the Department of Culture (Ministry of Human Resource Development);

(4) Fifty-Ninth Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 of the Department of Women and Child Development (Ministry of Human Resource Development);

(5) Sixtieth Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 of the Department of Health (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(6) Sixty-First Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 of the Department of Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare); and

(7) Sixty-Second Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports (Ministry of Human Resource Development).

11.07½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Forty-third, Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Reports

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I beg to lay (Hindi and English versions) the Forty-third, Forty-fourth and Forty-Fifth Reports of the Department-

related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Action Taken by the Departments of Biotechnology. Electronics and Ocean Development on Committee's Thirty-fourth, Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth Reports on Demands for Grants (1996-97) respectively.

11.08 hrs.

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move :

> "That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I am putting forth this point before the House, I am well aware that the term of my Government is beginning today, therefore it would be better to talk of days to come since it would be suiting the occasion and praiseworthy too. But whenever we talk about policies and days to come in India, it becomes necessary to glance at the past and it is easy too, specially in the year when India is celebrating fiftieth anniversary of its independence, a number of people like me and Chandra Shekharji are present in the House who have participated in the freedom struggle of India. That was Uinque moment.

Only yesterday, I visited Gandhi Memorial. Where Shri Bommaiji had made arrangements for bringing some papers related to Gandhiji which have been made public today. While talking about Gandhi, I started recalling some fond memories of my life. I would like to reiterate which I have already said that I had the first glimpse of Gandhiji at the age of 11 years. The session of congress was going on in Lahore where Gandhiji had come and I heard him as a child he was uttering that India must get freedom this time. This occasion cast an impression on my thought. I had said one more thing about Gandhiji. When Gandhiji said about starting Dandi March, my parents were already attached to him. The day on which satyagrah was to be started, some friends came to met my father that evening. My father was an advocate, and they were good friends of my father. I always remember what one of his friends uttered to him, "you are an educated person, that old fellow has gone mad because he thinks that this strong Government will fall down by making a pinch of salt. Now, I remember those utterances as to how the pinch of salt had changed the history of India because the pinch of salt had given a new turn to our traditions. It had taken a pledge from the countrymen that we will remain faithful to the religion propounded by Gandhiji i.e. Satyagraha, non-violence and friendship.

Some newspapers had written about me that I have nostalgia of Lahore. I accept that it is true. My first nostalgia is that I had seen the session of Congress and whenever I go to Lahore, I remember three places very much. One of them being Central Jail where my father was prisoned, Secondly women's Jail where my mother was prisoned and the third children's jail where I was kept. Whenever I visit these places, I remember all the fond memories and traditions and think as to how many promises we have been able to fulfil and how many are still to be fulfilled.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had uttered a very important thing from this seat which he termed 'tryst with destiny. Talking about Jawaharlal Nehru is like lighting the course of the Sun. Now, I can claim that our policies have been formulated on the promises which were made by Jawaharlal Nehru and to which he always sticked and again the policies likely to be formulated by this Government will find inspiration from 'trust with destiny' made by Jawaharlal Nehru. Those promises are promises made by the country and not the promises made by congress party, neither by a tradition nor by any particular community. Atalji, Jaswantji, Chandra Shekharji and a number of names are covered by the same promise.

Today, I am on my legs to say only one thing that when I ask for your vote, I ask it in the name of confidence, to fulfil those promises which are witness to all the past and traditions having roots of secunlarism.

I remember one more thing. The session of congress party was going on. Since my father was in congress men, he took me also with him; then I was a child. For the first time Congress passed a resolution that since this country is a country of diversities, its unity will remain in diversity. The people have different religions, different langwages and wear different dresses, still we are one. The promise made during the Congress session to maintain that unity still exists. That time congress or Parliamentary congress was a platform, a movement which was leading the country towards the freedom. They were named as secularism afterwards. We started saying that there is unity in diversity irrespective of religion, place of residence and language. I make another promise in the name of this unity and that is — this Government will uphold all the traditions of secularism. But the secularism has not take help of revivalism. If we look back, we find that we have strong roots, we have own culture about which we are proud but with that we have to look forward. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to say that we should think scientifically. We should not wonder on the lighting of a bulp but we should explain a child as to how the bulp lits up. It is not a matter of surprise, it is scientific temper. Much before Gandhiji, Buddha was born in the country. I always remember a thing said by lord Buddha